

Reflection for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Dear People of God

My Dad's friend tell this story: His Chinese business partners and friends came to visit him. Surprised that he didn't see them smoking for the three days they were in his house, even though he knew them to be heavy cigarette smokers, he asked "It appears you have quit smoking?" Surprisingly they said "No, we still smoke". "But I have not seen you smoking in the past three days" the man said. One of them answered "Your house church, church, church" pointing at the crucifix and holy pictures on the walls and the holy images on the man's prayer altar in a corner of his sitting room. And the other Chinese added with a prayer gesture "And you and your family, pray, pray, pray". As the man was about to apologise, they said "No need, it is very good but challenging." And my Dad's friend added, "That was the beginning of the end of their smoking habit"

Again, as I was served my meal in a restaurant one day, I made 'the sign of the cross' and said my Grace before Meals, not aware that someone was watching me. As I was leaving a young man approached me and asked if he could have a chat with me. Then he opened up and told me his worries and anxieties. He had at that time no one to turn to but by the grace of God met me. This encounter ended with the two of us praying together in the car park. He was strengthened and reassured of God's goodness, mercy and love. And we left that place happy and grateful to God. I said the Grace before Meal because my parents taught me to be grateful to God for the good things we receive from Him, but that day it threw light on someone's confusions and gloomy future.

Thomas Merton, a Catholic Priest, writer and a mystic (1915-1968), in his book, *No Man Is an Island* (1955) wrote: "The lives of all men we meet and know are woven into our own destiny together with the lives of many we shall never know on earth ... They are inseparable from our own destiny, and, therefore, our love for them is especially holy: it is a manifestation of God in our life." As we are influenced by others, so too we unavoidably influence others far and near, consciously or unconsciously, positively or negatively. This is especially true for us Christians even in the little things we do or fail to do. As St Paul said: "thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere." (2 Cor. 2:14). Therefore "men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." (1 Cor. 4:1). We are, by virtue of our baptism, configured into Christ who is the Life and the Light of the world. (John 14:6; 8:12; and 9:5).

In today's gospel, Christ says to us: "You are the salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven." Therefore we must make an impact wherever we find ourselves – be it now or in the future, proximate or remote, little or great, but we must - each according as the measure of faith and grace given him or her.

The question is: Do I impact positively on others – family members, friends, school mates, students, co-workers, neighbours, strangers, Facebook and other social media friends, etc.? How many followers do we have in righteousness for God's glory? Do we, like St Paul in today's second reading, go out "in great fear and trembling", among the people, to demonstrate "the power of the Spirit", or do we go out with "a show of oratory or philosophy" – 'Christians for mouth' as Nigerians would say. This prophecy of Zachariah should also apply to us, who are Jews by adoption in Christ: "*This is what the LORD Almighty says: In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, 'Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.'*"

As children of God, living in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation (see Philippians 2:14-16), we should not conform to the standards of this world (see Rom. 12:2). But rather, we should shine among them as bright stars, holding fast to the Word of life.

God Bless Us All

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 5th FEBRUARY 2017



ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC PARISH
39-49 McLAREN ROAD, NERANG
POSTAL: PO Box 196 NERANG, QLD 4211
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday and Thursday – 9.00am to 3.30pm
PHONE: (07) 5596 2632 FAX: (07) 5596 3669
WEB PAGE: www.stbrigidsparishnerang.org.au

PASTORAL & ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya Parish Priest Email: enyinnayai@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish Secretary: Lenette Evans Email: nerang@bne.catholic.net.au

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE

RE: THE FINAL HEARINGS INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AT THE ROYAL COMMISSION

By now the Royal Commission into the institutional abuse of the young is into its fourth year. It's agonising but very important journey for the Church and for many others as well.

On Monday the 6th of February, the final hearing into the Catholic Church will begin and it will go for about three weeks. It seems I will appear a number of times through that final hearing.

In those weeks, the Royal Commission will try to do two things:

It will ask the question, first of all, what has the Church learnt from the experience of the Royal Commission? What have we done on the basis of what we've learnt and what will we do in the future? That's a very important question.

Secondly, the Royal Commission will ask what were the cultural factors that led to the abuse in the Church and to the mishandling of the abuse by Church leaders? That, too, is a very important question because it's not enough to change procedures and protocols. That has to happen.

But we have to shift the culture. And that's a much more difficult thing to do. So, that's why that second question – what were the cultural factors – is again a very important one.

Through these three weeks there will be some grim moments and there will be some shocks, inevitably. But there will also be a chance to tell a better story of what has been done and what is being done now and what will be done in the future to ensure that the future is very much better than the past.

We say this is the final hearing into the Catholic Church but, in fact, there will be a story to be told beyond the final hearing. The Commission will present its report at the end of the year and that will be important.

But it will also have a long tail. The journey will continue long after the final report has been published.

So, I invite all of you to join me on the journey through the three weeks of this final hearing and the journey that stretches before us beyond that, so that together we can do everything possible to ensure a better future for the Church; a better future particularly for young people; and even more particularly for those who have survived abuse. That justice and healing may be done to them.

So, a better future for them and for the whole of society as well.

CHURCHES

St Brigid's Church
39-49 McLaren Rd
Nerang Q 4211

St John's Church
Windabout Rd
Beechmont Q
4211

SCHOOL

St Brigid's Primary
McLaren Road
Nerang Q 4211
Phone: 5596 4188

WEB PAGE:
www.sb.qld.edu.au

DAVID SEWELL
Principal

MASS AND PRAYER TIMES AT ST BRIGID'S CHURCH

Week Day Mass

Monday to Friday 7am
Saturday 9am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm
Sunday 8.30 am

Rosary

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7.30am

Saturday 8.30am

Divine Mercy Prayer Wednesday 7.30am

Adoration with Benediction Thursdays 7-8pm

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Saturday 9.30 am

Reconciliation: St Brigid's Church Saturday 5.15pm – 5.45pm
Sunday 8.00am - 8.15am

St John's Windabout Road, Beechmont
2nd Sunday of each month 10.30am

Next Mass at St John's Sunday 12th February 10.30am



We remember all those who have gone before us to rest in the loving embrace of Jesus. We also remember their families - may they be comforted and supported in their loss by this Community of Faith. :

We pray for the dearly departed whose anniversaries occur at this time :

We pray for those who are sick or in hospital: Christine De Barro, Maureen and Paul Hurney ,Patricia Smith, Patrick Mackey,.

Our prayers are offered for those who are elderly and in Nursing homes.

The Feast of **Our Lady of Lourdes Celebration at Marian Valley** on February 11, 2017. The bus will leave from the normal pick up point at Palm Beach at 7.30am then from Sacred Heart Church at Clear Island Waters at 8.15am. The cost for a seat on the bus is \$20 per person return. Please call Paula on 0402 930 918 or 5582 7950 or Madelaine Zammit on 5529 1573 or 0405 252 367 to secure your seat.



Fatima Day on February 13, 2017. at Marian Valley. The bus will leave from the normal pick up point at Palm Beach at 7.30am then from Sacred Heart Church at Clear Island Waters at 8.15am. The cost for a seat on the bus is \$20 per person return. Please call Paula on 0402 930 918 or 5582 7950 or Madelaine Zammit on 5529 1573 or 0405 252 367 to secure your seat.



ST BRIGID'S CRAFT GROUP

The craft group meet every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am. They will resume on Tuesday 7th February. Please come along and bring your craft projects and join the ladies and enjoy morning tea. Everyone welcome. Donations of wool would be gratefully appreciated. For further information please contact the Parish Office.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL NERANG CONFERENCE

MEETINGS held in St Brigid's Parish Centre at 6.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. All Welcome.



ST BRIGID'S PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIAL DETAILS as at Tuesday 31st January 2017

1ST COLLECTION: \$ 738.10 - For Clergy Support

2ND COLLECTION: \$ 1,213.65 - For Parish expenses such as administration, and maintenance of all our buildings and properties.

The Parish Loans currently stand at \$ 16,439.61

I sincerely thank you for your continued financial support. Fr Isidore



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A 5th Feb 2017

FIRST READING *Is 58:7-10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.' If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 111:4-9. R. v.4*

(R.) A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. He is a light in the darkness for the upright: he is generous, merciful and just. The good man takes pity and lends, he conducts his affairs with honour. (R.)</p> <p>2. The just man will never waver: he will be remembered for ever. He has no fear of evil news; with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. (R.)</p> | <p>3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear: open-handed, he gives to the poor: his justice stands firm for ever. <i>His head will be raised in glory (R)</i></p> |
|--|---|

SECOND READING *1 Cor. 2:1-5*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

GOSPEL *Mt 5:13-16*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

We here at St Brigid's Catholic Parish Nerang as part of the Archdiocese of Brisbane MUST ABIDE BY AND ADHERE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRIVACY ACT & THE AUSTRALIAN PRIVACY PRINCIPLES.

The Privacy Act impacts upon us all today and if you wish to peruse the Compliance Requirements and the Privacy Act, please go to the Archdiocesan Website www.bne.catholic.net.au. The Policy is on our website.

Become a Part of the PARISH PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM And help your Parish grow.

We thank most sincerely all Parishioners who contribute to the Planned Giving Program. Your ongoing commitment and contribution assists the responsible budgeting for the operating expenses of the Parish (wages, rates, electricity, building maintenance, etc.) as well as pastoral planning for Parish growth (faith education, sacramental preparation, resources, etc.) *To obtain Planned Giving envelopes, please complete this form and place on the Collection Plate, or contact the Parish Office on 5596 2632.*

(Please print clearly)

Surname: _____

Christian Names: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Post Code: _____

Phone No : _____ (H) _____ (W) _____ (M)

E-Mail: _____

